



PRESS RELEASE

Massachusetts Unemployment and Job Estimates for January

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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BOSTON — Following on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual revisions [the state's January total unemployment rate held at 3.1 percent for](#)

http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/Current_Month_unemploymentnet.asp) the fourth consecutive month, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 11,400 jobs in January. (<http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/CES.asp>) Over the month, the private sector added 11,200 jobs as gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Other Services; Education and Health Services; Financial Activities; Construction; and Other Services. Information lost jobs over the month while the jobs level in Manufacturing remained unchanged.

From January 2018 to January 2019, BLS estimates Massachusetts added 27,200 jobs.

The January unemployment rate was nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.0 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics **recently reported** (<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/srgune.nr0.htm>) that Massachusetts had the highest employment to population gains of any state in 2018. The fact that our labor force grew last year by 109,500 shows that even with such a low unemployment rate, Massachusetts continues to attract additional workers into our labor pool to help grow our economy." Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said.

The labor force increased by 7,200 from 3,833,200 in December, as 8,400 more residents were employed and 1,200 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped five-tenths of a percentage point.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 67.9 percent. Compared to January 2018, the labor force participation rate is up 1.1 percentage points.

The largest private sector percentage job gains over the year were in Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Education and Health Services; and Construction.

Annual revisions to the job estimates show growth was slightly less than previously published for 2017 and 2018. In 2017, 42,200 jobs were added over the year. In 2018, estimates indicate 20,000 jobs were added over the year. BLS annually updates job estimates for each state with the most up-to-date information supplied by employers.

Annual year-end revisions show the unemployment rates were lower than the previously published estimates for November 2017 through May 2018. From June to December 2018, the unemployment rates were lower. The labor force estimates were slightly lower than previously published estimates for 2018.

January 2019 Employment Overview

Leisure and Hospitality gained 4,000 (+1.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality jobs level remained unchanged (0.0%).

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 2,500 (+0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 300 (-0.1%) jobs.

Professional, Scientific, and Business Services gained 1,800 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 10,800 (+1.9%) jobs.

Education and Health Services added 1,300 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services gained 9,800 (+1.2%) jobs.

Financial Activities added 1,100 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 1,000 (-0.5%) jobs.

Construction gained 800 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has added 1,500 (+1.0%) jobs.

Other Services added 500 (+0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are up 1,200 (+0.9%) jobs.

Manufacturing jobs level remained unchanged over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 900 (-0.4%) jobs.

Information lost 800 (-0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information jobs level remained unchanged.

Government added 200 (0.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government gained 6,200 (+1.4%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview

The January estimates show 3,722,000 Massachusetts residents were employed and 118,500 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,840,400. The unemployment rate remained steady at 3.1 percent. The January labor force increased by 7,200 from 3,833,200 in December, as 8,400 more residents were employed and 1,200 fewer residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working-age population employed and unemployed, is up one-tenth of a percentage point at 67.9 percent. The labor force was up 91,400 from the 3,749,100 January 2018 estimate, with 107,800 more residents employed and 1,200 fewer residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

NOTES:

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

Local area unemployment statistics for January 2019 will be released on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. The preliminary February 2019 and revised January 2019 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Friday, March 22, 2019. See the [2019 Media Advisory annual schedule](http://Imi2.detma.org/Imi/Newsrelease/media2019.pdf) (<http://Imi2.detma.org/Imi/Newsrelease/media2019.pdf>) for a complete list of release dates.

Detailed labor market information is available at www.mass.gov/Imi (/Imi).

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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EOLWD manages the Commonwealth's workforce development and labor departments to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools and training needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy.

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